

ENVS 190 Capstone Course: Environmental Problem Solving

Summer Session 2014

Tues. & Thurs. 9-12:30, ISB 221

Instructor: Dr. Katie Monsen, kmonsen@ucsc.edu

NS2 Rm. 423 ✧ Office hours – Mon 10:30-12:30 and by appointment

TA: Joanna Ory, jory@ucsc.edu

NS2 Rm. 469 ✧ Office hours – Tues. 2-3 pm

This is a draft syllabus and subject to change.

Course Description

Official: “A synthetic course that draws on the knowledge and skills students bring from other courses in the major. Focuses on written and oral individual and group projects in which students must take the initiative. Emphasizes developing skills critical for students in their future careers.”

This course combines discussion, hands-on work in class, and minimal lecture to help you synthesize part of your learning from your tenure as an Environmental Studies student and prepare you for leaving UCSC. We will explore practical skills such as project funding and job searching, we will engage in discussion and critical analysis of problem solving in current environmental issues, and we will analyze our own and others' oral and written presentation of ideas.

Course Components

*Note: **all** assignments must be completed for a passing grade in the course.*

Participation:

Most class periods will be arranged with 2 hours of lecture, discussion, and in-class activities, followed by 1.5 hours of group project development. I expect you to prepare for class through engagement with the readings and assignments. You are also expected to participate fully in your small group and will evaluate your own and your group members' participation at the end of the course. Please speak with Katie or Joanna early if you are experiencing any small group problems so we can work through them.

The evaluation of your participation will be based on attendance in class and your contribution to class discussion and activities and to your small group. Overall, participation is 20% of your final grade.

Written assignments:

You have four written assignments:

1. an assessment of your transferable skills, knowledges & preferences for job hunting, (10%)
2. a resume and cover letter for a particular job, (10%)
3. a short grant proposal, (10%) and
4. an individual paper of 8-10 pages. (25%)

You will write multiple drafts of the last three assignments, with peer feedback in class on the resume/cover letter and grant proposal, and written feedback on a draft of the grant proposal and final paper. All final writing assignments should include a rough draft with comments, a final draft, and a cover letter briefly addressing how reviewer comments were addressed.

Oral assignments:

You have two oral assignments:

1. a project proposal presentation, (10%) and
2. a final group presentation. (15%)

Required reading:

You are strongly encouraged to acquire a copy of Bolles, R.N. *What Color Is Your Parachute?* Ten Speed Press. (Any recent edition is fine; it is updated every year).

I will post additional readings on eCommons, particularly relatively short articles for in-class discussion that you are expected to read prior to class. Keeping the readings condensed allows you to focus on your extensive, individual literature review.

Course Schedule

Date	Class content	Due date
July 29	Course intro, job hunting & inventory intro, knowledge & work environment inventory, project idea development	
July 31	Work conditions & responsibilities inventory, review of research & writing skills, critically evaluating the quality of articles, project idea development	Brief description (written in class) of project and team assignments
Aug. 5	Geographical factors inventory, project idea development	
Aug. 7	Work responsibilities & writing resumes & cover letters, project proposal presentations & feedback	Assessment of skills; project proposal presentation
Aug. 12	Grant writing, discussion of grant ideas, resume & cover letter feedback, project work	Draft of resume & cover letter
Aug. 14	Discussion of interviews, grant proposal feedback, project work	Final resume & cover letter; draft of grant proposal
Aug. 19	Discussion TBA based on class interest (e.g., grad school, work at nonprofits), final paper feedback	Draft of final paper
Aug. 21	Review of giving good presentations, final paper feedback, project work	Final grant proposal
Aug. 26	Course wrap-up, final presentations	Final presentation (one-third of class)
Aug. 28	Final presentations	Final presentation (two-thirds of class) & paper (everyone)

Course Expectations

Timeliness: Assignments are due at the beginning of class or section on the due date. Late assignments will receive a deduction of 25% per day (24 hrs or portion thereof). Please anticipate printer or other common problems and allow time for them.

Ethical conduct: Students are expected to adhere to the UCSC policy on academic integrity - http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/ and associated links. All written assignments should be original works composed individually for this course. All academic integrity violations (e.g. plagiarism, cheating, multiple submissions, facilitating dishonesty) will be prosecuted. Be sure that you know what constitutes plagiarism - <http://scwibles.ucsc.edu/Documents/Avoiding%20Plagiarism.pdf> has a good explanation.

Engagement: This class is an opportunity to be deeply engaged with your own development and the development of others as you finish your Environmental Studies majors. I expect you to address everyone with whom we interact (including each other) with respect, including by being on time and using laptops for course work while in class. Late arrival (more than 5 min.) will result in reduced participation scores.